

Resolution Honoring Ed Cameron

WHEREAS, Orren Edward “Ed” Cameron III has been a mainstay of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly known as the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and, later, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications for many years; *and*

WHEREAS, Ed Cameron earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Engineering from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Cameron spent almost four decades perfecting his craft at REA and RUS, that of the best telecom engineer the feds ever saw; *and*

WHEREAS, During the period 1996 through 2007, Ed actively participated as a member of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications, ably representing the interests of Rural America; *and*

WHEREAS, As a forceful advocate for Rural America, Ed Cameron has tirelessly championed many causes but particularly the deployment of broadband on a basis “reasonably comparable” with that found in urban areas as directed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Telecom Act); *and*

WHEREAS, Between 1996 and 2001 he led an RUS team on Universal Service and other Telecom Act issues which made 58 filings to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other agencies, including running the cost models and compared their results to real costs for rural carriers; *and*

WHEREAS, As if riding herd on the FCC’s high-cost universal service fund and shepherding the RUS’s broadband loan program were not enough, Mr. Cameron’s leadership efforts helped to bring about a vastly improved rural emergency alert weather system, conceiving and designing the RUS Weather Radio Rural Transmitter Grant Program that has built 90 NOAA weather radio transmitters to date; *and*

WHEREAS, In his spare time he also designed the RUS Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program that has provided over 50 of the nation's most rural and needy public television stations with digital television capability; *and*

WHEREAS, Mr. Cameron is legendary for his affability and integrity, his genuine concern for the people around him, his prowess with a saxophone, and his detailed knowledge of and love for the nation’s railroads (about which he is quick to impart such knowledge); *and*

WHEREAS, Ed’s keen sense of humor and story-telling skills are unparalleled, excepting for his amazing ability to explain with great relish and in layman’s language the technical intricacies of telecom engineering; *and*

WHEREAS, Having navigated the tricky footpaths and labyrinths of the world of telecommunications, Mr. Cameron has now sought other pastures to roam and to master; *and*

WHEREAS, Ed's recent departure from both NARUC and RUS has coincided with the emergence of a new sheep population on a farm in rural Pennsylvania; *and*

WHEREAS, Since assuming his new role as a sheep rancher and farmer extraordinaire, Ed has shown an unusual proclivity to pull the wool and spin a good yarn; *and*

WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions to the regulatory community, to NARUC, and to the public interests of the people of the United States during his service with the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications; *and*

WHEREAS, There will never be another Ed Cameron in the midst of NARUC, and for that we will all be the poorer; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened in its 2008 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to Ed Cameron for his many years of truly distinguished and dedicated public service, his unfailing sense of humor and good cheer, and his active role representing NARUC on rural telecommunications issues; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That both the Committee and Subcommittee on Telecommunications and all NARUC members convey their best wishes to Mr. Cameron in all of his future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
Adopted by the Board of Directors February 20, 2008*